WRITE A DIF

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The Directory Interchange Format (DIF) is metadata format used to create directory entries that describe scientific data sets. A DIF holds a collection of fields, which detail specific information about the data. Eight fields are required for the DIF, while others expand upon and clarify the information. Several are free-text fields, while others require the use of controlled keywords (sometimes known as "valids"). These keyword "valids" are maintained within the GCMD database, where validation for mandatory fields and keywords takes place. These controlled keywords provide normalized searches for users. The DIF is compliant with the ISO 19115 metadata standard. The template DIF provided here can be used to guide the author through the fields using any of the available DIF authoring tools. In the table below, the terms in orange indicate required fields. Terms in yellow indicate highly recommended fields. Recommended fields are displayed in green.

Field:	Definition:
Entry ID:	The "Entry_ID" is the unique document identifier of the metadata record.
Entry Title:	The "Entry_Title" is the title of the data set described by the metadata.
Parameters (Science Keywords):	The "Parameters" field allows for the specification of Earth science keywords that are representative of the data set being described.
ISO Topic Category:	The "ISO_Topic_Category" field is used to identify the keywords in the ISO 19115 - Geographic Information Metadata Topic Category Code List.
Data Center:	The "Data Center" is the data center, organization, or institution responsible for distributing the data.
Summary:	The "Summary" field provides a brief description of the data set along with the purpose of the data.
Metadata Name:	The "Metadata_Name" is used to identify the current DIF standard name. This field is auto-populated in docBUILDER.
Metadata Version:	The "Metadata_Version" is used to identify the current DIF metadata standard. This field is auto-populated in docBUILDER.
Data Set Citation:	The "Data_Set_Citation" field allows the author to properly cite the data set producer.
Personnel:	"Personnel" defines the point of contact for more information about the data set or the metadata.
Related URL:	The "Related_URL" field specifies links to Internet sites that contain information related to the data.
Instrument (Sensor Name):	The "Instrument" or "Sensor_Name" is the name of the instrument used to acquire the data.
Platform (Source Name):	The "Platform" or "Source_Name" is the name of the platform used to acquire the data.
Temporal Coverage:	The "Temporal_Coverage" field specifies the start and stop dates during which the data were collected.
Paleo-Temporal Coverage:	For paleoclimate or geologic data, "Paleo_Temporal_Coverage" is the length of time represented by the data collected.
Spatial Coverage:	The "Spatial_Coverage" field specifies the geographic and vertical (altitude, depth) coverage of the data.
Location:	The "Location" field specifies the name of a place on Earth which the data are collected.

Data Resolution:	The "Data_Resolution" field specifies the resolution of the data, which is the difference between two adjacent geographic, vertical, or temporal values.
Project:	The "Project" is the name of the scientific program, field campaign, or project from which the data were collected.
Quality:	The "Quality" field allows the author to provide information about the quality of the data or any quality assurance procedures followed in producing the data.
Access Constraints:	The "Access_Constraints" field allows the author to provide information about any constraints for accessing the data set.
Use Constraints:	The "Use_Constraints" field allows the author to describe how the data may or may not be used after access is granted to assure the protection of privacy or intellectual property.
Distribution:	The "Distribution" field describes media options, size, data format, and fees involved in distributing the data set.
Data Set Language:	"Data_Set_Language" describes the language used in the preparation, storage, and description of the data.
Data Set Progress:	The "Data_Set_Progress" describes the production status of the data set regarding its completeness.
DIF Revision History:	The "DIF_Revision_History" allows the author to provide a list of changes made to the DIF over time.
(Ancillary) Keyword:	The "Keyword" field allows authors to provide any words or phrases needed to further describe the data set.
Originating Center:	The "Originating_Center" is the data center or data producer who originally generated the dataset.
Multimedia Sample:	The "Multimedia_Sample" field allows the author to provide information that will enable the display of a sample image, movie or sound clip within the DIF.
References/Publications:	The **"**Reference" field describes key bibliographic citations pertaining to the data set.
Parent DIF:	The "Parent_DIF" field allows the capability to relate generalized aggregated metadata records (parents) to metadata records with highly specific information (children).
IDN Node:	The Internal Directory Name (IDN) Node field is used internally to identify association, responsibility and/or ownership of the dataset, service or supplemental information.
DIF Creation Date:	The "DIF_Creation_Date" specifies the date the metadata record was created.
Last DIF Revision Date:	The "Last_DIF_Revision_Date" specifies the date the metadata record was created or last modified.
Future DIF Revision Date:	The "Future_DIF_Revision_Date" allows for the specification of a future date at which the DIF should be reviewed for accuracy of scientific or technical content.
Privacy Status	The "Private" field allows the author to restrict the data set description from being publicly available.

Directory Interchange Format (DIF) Writer's Guide, 2010.
Global Change Master Directory. National Aeronautics and Space Administration